



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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[REDACTED]

Date: 07 April 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 10th March 2014 requesting the following information:

I am looking for information regarding the incidence of Patello-femoral pain in serving personnel by service.

This information should include Anterior Knee pain, chondromalacia patellae, Patello-femoral joint pain syndrome and any other synonyms.

I would like information regarding incidence/prevalence and impact of the above diagnoses including days on light duties, medical discharges for these diagnoses and treatments used including rehabilitation with a view to estimating costs of the condition. This information should include attendances at Medical Centres, RRU/MIACs and Headley Court. As most of this is held on systems such as DMICP I am only looking for recent data in the last 3 years.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that MOD hold information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve individual level searches of electronic medical records resulting in at least 250 man days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that Defence Statistics hold raw data from which we could consider providing the following information if requested. Links to information already available in the public domain are provided under each section:

Incidence of Patello-femoral pain:

- The number of UK Service personnel who, between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014, have had a diagnosis of Patello-femoral pain (Patello-femoral pain will be identified from READ codes for Patello-femoral pain, Anterior Knee pain, chondromalacia patellae and Patello-femoral joint pain syndrome)
- Of those who had a diagnosis of Patello-femoral pain, the number of personnel who had been seen at a Primary Care Rehabilitation Facility (PCRF), a Regional Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) or Headley Court.
- Of those who had a diagnosis of Patello-femoral pain, the number of personnel who have been seen at a Pain clinic at Headley Court.

Medical Discharges:

- The number of UK Regular¹ Service personnel who have been medically discharged with a principal or contributory (but not principal) cause related to Patello-femoral pain between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2013 (latest data available) (Patello-femoral pain will be identified from ICD 10 codes for Patello-femoral pain, Anterior Knee pain, chondromalacia patellae and Patello-femoral joint pain syndrome)
- Please note Defence Statistics hold medical discharge information back to 1995.
- Due to the differences in the three Services' medical discharge process the information for the Naval Service, Army and RAF would be presented separately.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/medical/medical-discharges>

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering medical discharges in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)

¹ Includes trained and untrained personnel; Gurkha's and Military Provost Guard Service. Excludes all Reservists and Home Service of the Royal Irish Regiments